

## WHY ANGELS CANNOT GET SAVED

### 1 Peter 1:1-12

INTRO: Every once in a while it is like a real break to simply preach on a subject of interest and that is what this message started out like for me. But later I realized it may have good value in our spiritual lives, and I trust that will be so. The title is, "Why Angels Cannot Get Saved." I am sure many of you have wondered about this, as have I. For years I thought it must be because the angels had been in the very presence of God, while man was not. But as I considered that, and thought that Adam and Eve had been in the presence of God as well, that did not seem to work out. Adam and Eve were in the presence of God and yet they got saved. And so for another number of years I simply could not come to any conclusions on the matter, though I did think on it from time to time. Then as I rethought all this, yes Adam and Eve were in the presence of God, but did they ever see God? I find no indication that they ever did, and that makes a major difference between man and angels as we will see.

So, let me ask, are there any Scriptures that indicate angels cannot get saved? Turn to Hebrews 2 for an interesting passage. In this chapter it speaks of both angels and man. It tells us that Jesus was made a little lower than the angels. That is when He became man. So Christ, the second Person of the divine Trinity, became human. So now look at verses 14-16 (read). Now if you are using the KJV it words this verse differently. It says, "For verily he took not on *him* the nature of angels; but he took on *him* the seed of Abraham." The original word that is difficult to translate here is *epilambanetai*. The KJV translates it as 'to take on' and the NKJV says 'does not give aid to'. Literally translated this verse says, "For indeed, He does not take on, or, to Himself angels, but He does take on, or, to Himself, the seed of Abraham." Cleon Rogers says of this verse, "The word may have in this context the sense of, to help, to assist, to take someone to oneself to help, to take hold of to help..." So the NKJV says, "He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham."

Go to one more passage in 1 Peter 1. In this chapter Peter speaks of the trials of our faith. So note what he says in verses 6-9 (read). Then it tells us that the OT prophets tried to search out when this salvation would take place, realizing that they were writing for a future generation. And it tells us that the angels desire to understand this salvation. We find this in verses 10-12 (read). 2 Peter 2:3 says that God did not spare the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell. Nowhere in Scripture are we ever given the idea that angels can get saved, and our question this morning is, why not? May this message give us new encouragement to put our full trust in God and to live by faith.

Well, to seek to answer why angels cannot get saved, we will look at the creation of angels, of the universe, and of man.

#### I. THE CREATION OF ANGELS

So we begin with the creation of angels. I want to take us back to creation. I believe the angels were created before man was created, or even before the universe was created. As best I know, before Genesis one took place, there was no matter. Nothing material existed. God existed, but He is not a material Being. He existed in the spiritual realm which is not material. Angels existed before the universe was created, but angels are not material beings either. They too are spiritual beings. So, let us look at Hebrews 1:5-7 (read). When God created the angels, He made them spirit beings. Spirit beings are non-material, non-physical beings. There are many present right here, but we have no physical contact with them. We cannot prove they are here. We can only believe or disbelieve it.

We have concluded in other studies that sin found its way into the realm of angels through the highly positioned angel called Lucifer. We have concluded that it was pride that caused him to sin. And what has puzzled many of us is why angels cannot get saved and man can. It is a perplexing problem.

Now there is a likeness between God and man and angels. It is this; all three are personal beings. That is a great likeness. But there is a great 'otherness' between man, and God and angels. Man is a

physical, material being; and God and angels are spirit beings. We cannot have any physical connection to God. You cannot say, "He is over there." He is everywhere, but you cannot make contact in any material sense. There is this great 'otherness' between God and man. It is this otherness that does not exist between angels and God that is the reason why they cannot get saved, and we will talk more about that more later.

Now man has a likeness to the animal world as well, a likeness that man does not share with God. It is the physical, material likeness. But there is a great 'otherness' between man and animal, and it is that very thing to which man has a likeness to God, which is personhood. You can connect with animals materially, but when you look into the eyes of an animal, there is an 'otherness' that cannot be changed. The animal is not a personal being. Yet this otherness that man has to animal, he has in common with God. It is for this reason that man has the capacity to fellowship with God.

Now, I believe that it is this great 'otherness' between angels and man that is the reason why angels cannot get saved. This is what we want to explore. I cannot say that I understand fully why God created angels and man in the first place. But I am convinced that the main reason for the creation of both angels and man is for the glory of God. We do not have time here to explain what that means, and I trust you know what that means from the many times I have explained that in the past. In a series available on [sermonaudio.com/lhec](http://sermonaudio.com/lhec) I give four messages on 'Answers to Life's Most Basic Questions.' There I deal with what it means to exist to the glory of God.

So, we go back to eternity past, before anything; even before angels were created and we ask, what existed? Well, as far as we know, only the Triune God existed. And there was God, an inexpressibly wonderful being, and only Himself to appreciate all that He is. And so, I believe God created angels as free moral agents to glorify Him. And as free moral agents, when they recognized some of His attributes, no doubt it caused them to glorify God Almighty. And as free moral agents, they would find complete fulfillment in bringing glory to Him, just as we find

fulfillment when we are doing that which we have been created and gifted for. And so God would receive glory and recognition for who He truly is and the angels would find fulfillment in recognizing who God truly is and by glorifying Him for that.

All went well until Lucifer, a very highly gifted angel decided that he would like to be glorified as well. And born in him was this desire to be like God, to be like the Most High. That is the sin that is so rapidly growing in North America today. It has been in other parts for millenia. And so Satan fell into sin by pride. But not only did he fall into sin. He persuaded one third of the angels to go with him (Rev. 12:4).

Now let me just briefly explain how Satan is glorified. It is by sin. That is the method he chose. God, on the other hand is glorified by righteousness. That is why I say again and again, just do right.

And now, after Satan sinned, for the very first time, sin existed in the universe. And sin, to this great being we know as God, is the most horrible thing possible. There can be nothing worse. And because God is also just, sin has to be dealt with. That is why unconditional forgiveness is wrong. But it has to be dealt with justly. And so, we sometimes ask, "Why didn't God just cast Satan into hell the day he sinned?" And I believe the answer to that is this: He could not do that, and still have the rest of the angels believe they were glorifying Him of their own free will, for they now would know that the day they did not do so, they would be cast into hell. And so, there God began the long process of dealing with sin in such a way that in the end He would be able to cast Satan into hell and still remain just, and be worshipped by the free will of the rest of the angels. But how will God do that? Well, I believe that is why God created the material universe, and man, who is a material, personal being with a free will!

Well, it is my view, and it is speculation; that God created the universe and man out of material in order that through man, as a personal, material human being he would be able to destroy Satan in such a way that would leave Him to be a just God and would leave the

rest of the angels fully aware that their ministry of glorifying God was in no way out of anything but their own free will. Angels had been created as spiritual beings and lived in the very same dimension as God. They could see Him. They knew who He was.

## II. THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE

So that is a brief look at the creation of angels. Now let us consider the creation of the universe. The Bible begins like this, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." That is an incredible revelation. In six days He created everything that exists materially. It is a dimension that is totally unlike the spiritual dimension. For personal beings to exist in this material dimension, it requires the five senses that God made us with.

Now I want you to consider the response of the angels to the creation of the universe in the 38th chapter of the book of Job. In this book, after many chapters where God is silent and Job's miserable comforters argue with him, God finally breaks the silence. And God asks some very significant questions regarding creation (read 38:1-7). I think it is generally agreed that the morning stars, or the sons of God referred to in verse 8 are the angels. They would, no doubt, be the good angels that had not fallen with Lucifer. And when God created the physical, material universe, the angels sang together and shouted for joy. Now the word 'sang' is not the regular word for singing. TWOT says of this Hebrew word *ranan*, "The initial use of *ranan* is in Leviticus 9:24 where the shout of jubilation is connected with a divinely appointed sacrifice. This usage of the term to describe the joy of Israel at God's saving acts is carried throughout the OT. In all of the fourteen occurrences of *ranan* in Isaiah, it is the connotation of holy joy which is being celebrated by Israel's shouting (Isa 12:6)."

Now, this word is mostly connected with joy, rejoicing or praise. The picture I get from God's own description here in Job 38 is that when God created the material universe, the angels stood there in awe and wonder beyond description, and then they burst out with shouts of joy. They could not describe in words the wonder they felt coursing through them, and

they just shouted with inexpressible joy. You see, as far as we know, nothing material had existed to that point in time. And now there lies this vast universe, and in that vast universe is this one little tiny planet, and on that one tiny little planet exists a material, personal being. We know this personal being as man. Today, this is you and I. And in each such human being is this tremendous potential both for good or for evil. May I ask you this morning, are you involved in sin? Do you live in something you know you should not? May I encourage you this morning to repent and be cleansed.

Now, let me tell you why I believe God created the universe of material substance. I believe God created the universe and man as material because God knew that man too would sin. This is the main problem with free moral agents. But if He created another personal being as a spirit being in order to deal with the sin of angels, if that being too sinned, again salvation could not take place. But if He placed man in a sphere, a dimension that is totally other than He is, He would be able to do something beyond the imagination of Satan and beyond description in words. He would be able to save man and use him for the highest purpose in all of the universe and beyond.

Let me explain. The reason man can get saved is because he was created out of that which is material. In this material dimension man cannot see and behold God like angels do in the spiritual realm. But in this physical realm God would still be able to communicate with man through the senses, especially the sense of sound. But man would not be able to see God. Now the only way in which man would be able to know about God is by hearing from Him or about Him. But man would not be able to see Him. You see, being a material being man cannot see and know the spiritual realm apart from something very, very important. That important thing is this: faith. And because God made man in a physical dimension, but He, God, is in a totally different dimension, man would have to exercise faith to believe in Him. So, because man is a physical being, he can now exercise faith in God. Angels cannot exercise faith in God. How can you believe in that which you actually see? You cannot. When you see it you know it. You see, we do not say, "I believe this is a pulpit." As soon as you use the

word 'believe' there is some doubt upon it. We do not believe this is a pulpit, we know it.

Angels cannot exercise faith in God because they see Him. They are in the same realm or dimension as He is. If we were spiritual beings like angels, we would be able to see God and we would not be able to exercise faith. So God created man in a way through which He would be able to save man by faith. The angels cannot exercise faith. They can only desire into salvation (1 Pet. 1:14). They cannot get saved. They cannot know what it is like to trust God for something they cannot see, because they can see Him.

Now, you might say, "Just a minute. Not so fast. Have I not read that the devils also believe but they tremble? Does not James 2:19 say, "You believe there is one God. You do well. Even the devils believe and tremble!?" But what is it they believe? They believe there is only one God. Demons are not polytheists, that is they do not believe there are many gods. But demons do not know everything, so they cannot know there are not more gods, they can only believe it. So what they believe is that there are not more gods than one. Albert Barnes says about the demons believing, and I quote, "That is, particularly, they believe in the existence of the one God. How far their knowledge may extend respecting God, we cannot know..." They cannot be saved by faith.

Now, one of the remarkable things about that which we call a faith, is that faith gives rise or faith gives birth to hope. So, listen to Romans 8:22-25: *For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body (that is our hope). For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. We say, "Seeing is believing." But it would be more correct to say, "Seeing is knowing."*

There was a time when Moses requested to see the glory of God. But God said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live (Ex. 33:20)" I used

to think that we would not be able to see God and live because He is so holy and we are so unholy that it would kill us to see Him. But I am wondering if it does not rather mean that if we could see Him we could no longer live by faith. I believe the angels cannot exercise faith because they see Him.

In Genesis 32:30 Jacob said he had seen God face to face. But it was the Lord Jesus who made Himself into the appearance of a man. It is called a *Christophany*, a pre Bethlehem appearance of Christ. It is like angels that take on a human form to appear to man.

I now tend to think that the reason no man can see God's face and live is because it would not be possible to exercise faith once one saw God. One would be like the angels. You see, the angels do see God. And when they sin, they cannot be saved. It is because they cannot exercise faith. And God has chosen the way of faith because in this way He can provide salvation entirely apart from man's doing anything for it. If man could do anything for it, he would boast (Eph. 2:8-9). So look at Matthew 18:10 (read). The word 'beholding' is *blepo*. It means to see. Angels are always beholding God's face. Therefore, if they sin, there is no salvation possible for them. The only way God could make man so that He could save him if he sinned was to create man in another dimension. If man could not see Him, then He could save man by faith. And faith can only be expressed when one must believe something without being able to visually prove it. Think of it. It is right here that Richard Dawkins and Bill Nye stumble. Faith! Listen to this statement by Dawkins, "Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence."

Now let me show you why God chose the way of faith for salvation. For this we go to Romans 4:16 (read). Only if salvation is by grace, can pride be cut out (Eph. 2:8-9). And the only way the salvation of sinners could be made possible is by faith. Therefore God created this universe of material and man is made of matter and is matter bound as long as we are on this side of death or in this body.

But, when salvation is complete, then man will also see God's face and yet he will live. Go to Revelation

22 (read 1-4). Why will man be able to see God face to face here? Because salvation is past. Faith is no longer necessary. So Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13, "And now abide faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love." Why is love greater? It has always been and will always be. But faith and hope only came into existence with the existence of mankind as a material human being. Faith and hope will expire when we get to glory.

CONCL: I bit off more than I could handle this morning. And I will need to finish this message another time. So we will have to finish this message another time.